

*The Tragedy of Hamlet*

excellent differences, of very soft society, and great showing: indeede to speake feelingly of him, he is the card or kalender of Gentry: for you shall finde in him the continent of what part a Gentleman would see.

*Ham.* Sir, his definement suffers no perdition in you, though I know to deuide him inuentorially, would dizzie th'arithmeticke of memory, and yet but raw neither, in respect of his quick faile, but in the verity of extolment, I take him to be a soule of great article, and his infusion of such dearch and rarenesse, ns to make true diction of him, his semblable is his mirrour, and who els would trace him, his ymbrage, nothing more.

*Cour.* Your Lordship speakes most infallibly of him.

*Ham.* The concernancy sir, why do wee wrap the Gentleman in our more rawer breath?

*Cour.* Sir.

*Hora.* Ist not possible to vnderstand in another tongue, you will doo't sir really.

*Ham.* What imports the nomination of this Gentleman?

*Cour.* Of Laertes.

*Hora.* His purse is empty already, all's golden words are spent.

*Ham.* Of him sir.

*Cour.* I know you are not ignorant.

*Ham.* I would you did sir, yet in sayth if you did, it would not much approoue me, well sir.

*Cour.* You are ignorant of what excellence Laertes is

*Ham.* I dare not confesse that, least I should compare with him in excellence, but to know a man well, were to know himselfe.

*Cour.* I meane sir for this weapon, but in the imputation layd on him by them in his meed, hee's vnfellowed.

*Ham.* What's his weapon?

*Cour.* Rapiar and Digger.

*Ham.* That's two of his weapons, but well.

*Cour.* The King sir hath wagerd with him six Barbary horses against the which he has impaund as I take it six french Rapiers and Poynards, with their assignes, as girdle, hanger and so. Three of the cariages in faith, are very deare to fancy, very responsiue to the hilts, most dilicate cariages, and of very liberall conceit.

*Ham.* What call you the cariages?

*Hora.* Iknew you must be edified by the margent ere you had done.

*Prince of Denmarke.*

done.

*Cour.* The carriage sir are the hangers.

*Ham.* The phrase would be more German to the matter if wee could carry a Cannon by our sides, I would it might be hangers till then, but on, six Barbary horses against six french swords their assignes, and three liberall conceited cariages, that's the French bet against the Danish, why is this all you call it?

*Cour.* The King sir, hath laid sir, that in a dozen passes betweene your selfe and him, hee shall not excede you three hits, hee hath layd on twelue for nine, and it would come to immediate tryall, if your Lordshippe would vouchsafe the answer.

*Ham.* How if I answered no?

*Cour.* I meane my Lord the opposition of your person in tryall.

*Ham.* Sir I will walke heere in the hall, If it please his Maiefty, it is the breathing time of day with mee, let the foyles be brought, the Gentleman willinge, and the Kinge hold his purpose; I will winne for him and I can, if not I will gaine nothing but my shame, and the odde hits.

*Cour.* Shall I deliuer you so?

*Ham.* To this effect sir, after what flourish your nature will.

*Cour.* I commend my duty to your Lordshippe.

*Ham.* Yours doo's well to commend it himselfe, there are no tongues els for's turne.

*Hora.* This Lapwing runnes away with the shell on his head.

*Ham.* A did so sir with his dugg before a suckt it, thus has he and many more of the same breede that I know the droffy age dotes on, enely got the tune of the time, and out of an habit of incounter, a kind of misty collection, which carryes them through and through the most prophane and trennowned opinions, and doe but blowe them to their tryall, the bubbles are out

*Enter a Lord.*

*Lord.* My Lord, his Maiefty commended him to you by younge Ostricke, who brings backe to him that you attend him in the hall, hee sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with Laertes, or that you will take longer time?

*Ham.* I am constant to my purposes, they follow the Kings pleasure, if his fitnes speakes, mine is ready: now or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

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*Lord.*